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Foreign Crops and MARKETS

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 6

WORLD SUMMARIES:

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LATE NEWS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Flood conditions persisted during late January in the winter vegetable area of Sinaloa, Mexico and the railroad bridge over the Rio Fuerte near San Blas continues inoperative. The repair work on the bridge, started after the first flood, has been destroyed by subsequent high water, and it is now expected that traffic can not be resumed until the middle of February. These conditions have been very serious for the vegetable industry of the area which normally would be shipping 50 carloads per day.

In an effort to keep the shipments moving, relatively small quantities of vegetables have been flown out of the area and a few shipments have been sent by boat to rail connections on the West Coast and thence to Nogales, the regular entry point.

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WORLD RICE PRODUCTION AGAIN EQUAL TO PREWAR

The world rice harvest of 1948-49 (August-July) approximates prewar average production for the first time since World War II, according to the estimate of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The crop of 7,470 million bushels is a pronounced increase over the 7,060 million in 1947-48 and almost identical with the 7,450 million bushels produced during the prewar (1935-36/39-40) period.

This season's good harvest is due to favorable weather in many countries and to an increase in the area planted. The largest gain in production occurred in Asia. Record crops were produced, however, in Africa, North America, and Europe. South American output is expected to exceed that of last year, but to be less than the peak production of 2 years ago.

The world acreage planted to rice is the largest on record. This is true in Asia as well as in the other continents where acreages increased as a result of the war. The gain in acreage over prewar in Asia is primarily in the Indian Union and Pakistan, for in most of the countries of that continent planting has not recovered to the prewar average. Cultivation of poorer lands in some producing areas and fertilizer shortages in the countries of Asia and Europe caused a drop in yields per acre compared with prewar.

Asia's production is estimated at 7,000 million bushels compared with 6,600 million in 1947-48 and 7,100 million before the war. It is 6 percent larger than the preceding year's crop, and 98 percent of the prewar average production.

Favorable weather was the principal factor in the production of large harvests in Asia's net-importing countries, China, India, Japan, and in the Philippines and Korea. Growing conditions were favorable also in the surplus-producing countries, Siam, Burma, and French Indochina.

China's acreage increased slightly in 1948, weather conditions generally were favorable, and another good crop was harvested. Production is estimated at 2,360 million bushels compared with 2,278 million a year earlier and with 2,623 million bushels before the war.

The Indian Union is expected to harvest about 1,550 million bushels, the largest crop in several years. This compares with 1,402 million bushels the year before and with 1,404 million bushels before the war. The acreage of Pakistan exceeded early expectations, but only average yields were being harvested as the result of flood damage in some places, and the crop is expected to approximate 1947-48 produciton or about 570 million bushels. Prewar output amounted to about 550 million bushels.

Exceptionally favorable growing conditions in Japan and Korea resulted in the largest harvests since the war. Japan's production of 576 million bushels was nearly up to the prewar average, and the record crop of South Korea was about 2 percent above prewar average production.

(Text continued on Page 89; table follows)

ROUGH RICE: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, averages 1930-31 to 1939-40, annual 1946-47 to 1948-49 a/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre		Production				
	Average					Average		Average				
	1930-31 to 1934-35	1935-36 to 1939-40	1946-47	1947-48 b/	1948-49 b/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1948-49 b/	1930-31 to 1934-35	1935-36 to 1939-40	1946-47	1947-48 b/	1948-49 b/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA:												
Costa Rica	-	c/ 28	33	30	30	c/ 33.4	33.4	917	935	1,120	952	1,003
El Salvador	22	26	-	42	71	26 9	35.6	530	700	1,368	-	2,525
Mexico	84	95	157	183	183	42.2	40.2	3,478	4,007	6,760	6,752	7,350
Panama	35	50	105	122	130	32.0	22.8	960	1,600	2,709	2,594	2,965
United States	883	1,004	1,574	1,693	1,743	49.7	46.6	41,572	49,852	72,216	78,259	81,170
Cuba	36	45	107	105	123	21.4	24.4	935	965	2,400	2,870	3,000
Dominican Republic d/	45	80	124	100	92	36.3	45.1	1 517	2,905	3,684	3,840	4,150
Trinidad	7	10	22	-	-	30.0	-	180	300	844	-	-
Total	1,200	1,430	2,320	2,460	2,580	-	-	51,340	63,200	94,630	101,390	107,330
EUROPE:												
Bulgaria	18	19	14	-	-	54.8	-	791	1,041	500	-	-
France	1	1	2	6	12	30.0	41.7	35	30	118	245	500
Italy	360	362	325	348	350	103.9	91.4	34,139	38,620	26,000	34,300	32,000
Portugal	40	51	64	69	77	66.6	54.1	1,820	3,398	3,068	4,165	4,165
Spain	117	110	125	130	137	e/ 124.4	97.1	14,558	10,600	10,070	12,740	13,300
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.)	540	560	560	600	660	-	-	51,480	53,150	40,720	54,040	54,140
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	328	c/ 384	335	-	-	c/ 42.3	-	10,785	c/ 16,225	-	-	-
ASIA:												
Iran	c/ 560	c/ 534	545	545	545	c/ 37.1	39.6	c/ 22,413	18,577	20,576	15,607	21,560
Iraq	c/ 316	c/ 386	-	-	-	c/ 27.3	-	c/ 7,750	11,176	14,200	12,740	16,500
Syria	1	2	19	20	-	55.5	-	45	111	964	1,057	735
Turkey	66	78	45	56	62	61.2	71.0	3,329	4,774	2,976	3,720	4,400
Burma	12,770	12,671	7,788	9,154	9,854	27.5	26.8	358,219	348,534	194,942	270,547	264,500
China	c/ 47,099	c/ 48,161	45,165	45,373	45,617	c/ 52.5	51.7	2,345,574	2,623,383	2,253,921	2,278,436	2,360,000
Formosa	1,609	1,616	1,435	1,631	1,700	53.0	43.6	75,340	85,704	59,015	71,727	74,200
Manchuria	472	782	400	-	-	40.6	-	14,923	31,783	15,000	-	-
French Indochina	13,505	14,306	9,750	10,650	11,000	22.4	22.7	281,497	319,910	210,000	235,000	250,000
Indian Union f/	70,288	g/ 54,105	60,987	59,656	61,000	g/ 25.9	25.4	1,995,645	g/ 1,403,935	1,484,057	1,402,141	1,550,000
Pakistan		g/ 18,686	20,959	21,156	21,457	g/ 29.3	26.6		g/ 547,702	579,616	569,900	570,000

ASIA: (Cont'd.)											
Japan	7,887	7,862	7,700	7,830	7,850	75.8	73.4	557,217	595,845	561,076	553,408	576,322
Korea	4,112	3,838 h/	2,712 h/	2,753 h/	2,782	51.0 h/	55.3	197,500	195,763 h/	114,792 h/	131,983 h/	153,722
Malayan Union	740	746	797	862	900	36.3	30.0	25,333	27,099	20,322	26,868	27,000
Netherlands Indies i/	9,140	9,794	8,850	9,000	-	32.0	-	276,935	313,144	270,000	275,000	-
Philippine Islands	4,643	4,852	4,816	5,007	5,160	21.6	23.1	105,025	104,877	107,689	109,782	119,000
Siam	7,141	7,088	5,500	6,700	7,100	30.1	35.2	231,402	213,079	170,000	230,000	250,000
Total (excluding U.S.S.R.)	190,820	196,900	191,360	195,280	199,190	-	-	6,806,550	7,122,050	6,455,670	6,581,000	6,965,000
SOUTH AMERICA:											
Argentina	25	52	122	128	128	59.8	57.0	1,054	3,112	5,928	5,497	7,300
Brazil	2,074	2,323	4,166	3,756	4,082	28.6	27.0	58,970	66,424	132,779	101,164	110,051
British Guiana	78	70	98	101	91	50.8	58.2	3,445	3,559	4,993	4,742	5,300
Chile	-	13	80	70	58	99.9	75.9	18	1,299	4,274	4,381	4,400
Colombia c/	114	-	-	-	-	-	- c/	2,508	3,378	5,476	6,439	-
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,330	3,417	8,945	7,857	-
Paraguay c/	4	10	12	10	20 c/	46.0	- c/	175 c/	460	367	416	-
Peru	126	107	130	160	-	42.8	-	4,551	4,578	6,500	9,400	-
Surinam c/	29	37	40	-	-	46.0	-	1,078	1,703	2,507	1,889	-
Uruguay	3	13	23	29	-	66.6	-	201	866	1,723	2,009	-
Total	2,580	2,960	5,370	4,970	5,240	-	-	74,940	89,440	175,340	144,740	155,000
AFRICA:											
Belgian Congo	- c/	220	297	-	- c/	11.2	-	- c/	2,475	4,409	-	-
Egypt	352	463	656	805	815	71.6	79.8	20,876	33,155	45,971	62,533	65,000
French West Africa	1,065 c/	1,562	-	-	- c/	13.4	-	18,087 c/	20,936	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,354	1,195	1,430	1,430	-	28.3	-	35,166	33,823	34,290	34,290	-
Sierra Leone	307	340	-	-	-	26.8	-	9,015	9,100	-	-	-
Total	3,560	4,210	6,930	7,020	7,110	-	-	87,410	107,850	146,800	163,080	168,290
OCEANIA:											
Australia	21	23	32	26	32	92.0	93.4	1,629	2,117	2,751	2,489	2,990
Fiji	10	10	25	-	-	43.1	-	480	431	924	-	-
Total	40	40	90	80	90	-	-	2,200	2,700	4,800	4,660	5,160
World total	199,100	206,500	207,000	210,800	215,300	-	-	7,085,000	7,455,000	6,929,000	7,064,000	7,473,000

a/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. b/ Preliminary. c/ Less than 5-year average. d/ Calendar year prior to 1946-47. e/ Average 1930-34. f/ Includes acreage and production in areas regularly reported only. g/ Average 1936-37/38-39. h/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production in South Korea averaged about 150,000,000 bushels. i/ Java and Madura only.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

Nearly 155 million bushels were produced compared with 132 million the preceding year and with an average of 150 million bushels before the war. These large crops were harvested despite decreased availabilities of fertilizers compared with prewar.

Estimates of the crops in Asia's export area, Siam, Burma, and French Indochina, indicate total production is about 88 percent of prewar average output. Nearly 770 million bushels produced compare with 740 million in the preceding year and with 880 million bushels before the war. The production of Siam exceeds the prewar average, according to official statistics. Favorable weather is reported to have resulted in an increase in the yields per area and are harvested.

Burma's acreage is reported to have increased about 8 percent over that of last year, but the yields per acre are less. Production, therefore, is forecast at slightly less than in the year before, according to Burmese statistics. Acreage and production are reported at 78 and 76 percent, respectively, of the prewar average.

Although political unrest in French Indochina prevented an increase in acreage, the weather there was favorable, and relatively high yields per acre were reported. The crop is less than 80 percent of the prewar average output.

Europe's production is estimated at 54 million bushels, the same as in the preceding year. The output is only slightly larger than prewar harvest of 53 million bushels. The acreage was increased 15 to 20 percent over the prewar average and was about 10 percent larger than in the year before. Decreased application of fertilizers caused substantial reductions in harvested yields per acre, however, compared with prewar, and production is only about equal to that of last season. Growing conditions were not so beneficial as in 1947.

The Italian rice acreage was about equal to that of last year. The weather, however, although favorable, was not quite so ideal for production as in the preceding year, and the crop was slightly smaller. The harvest was approximately 15 percent less than prewar production.

Spain harvested the largest crop in several years. This was made possible, however, only through a substantial increase in acreage, as postwar yields per acre have been equal to only about three-fourths of prewar yields largely as the result of a fertilizer shortage. The acreage in Portugal was again increased and another large crop was harvested.

African production set another record this season. About 168 million bushels were harvested compared with 163 million in 1947-48 and with 108 million bushels before the war. This was primarily the result of a larger harvest in Egypt than was forecast early in the season. That country planted and harvested a larger crop than last year's bumper crop. Production amounted to 65 million bushels compared with 63 million in the year before and with 33 million bushels before the war. Political unrest in Madagascar continues to prevent any gain in the planting and harvesting of the rice acreage.

The largest crop on record was harvested in North America. Production is estimated at 107 million bushels compared with 101 million in 1947-48 and with 63 million bushels before the war. A record crop was produced in the United States for the third successive year. The acreage was increased 3 percent and production, 4 percent over that of 1947.

Mexico also harvested its largest crop. The acreages of Central American and Carribean countries were increased, and record production was harvested in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, and Cuba.

The acreage planted in South American countries is larger and the outturn is expected to exceed that of 1947-48. Production is forecast at 155 million bushels compared with 145 million in the year before and with 89 million bushels before the war. The acreage of Brazil was increased 9 percent, but dry weather in some areas again lowered the yields per acre, and production is forecast at 110 million bushels compared with 101 million in 1947-48 and with 66 million bushels before the war.

British Guiana is expected to have a record rice crop. Favorable growing conditions helped production and an increase in the practice of transplanting rice raised the total yield per acre. The acreage of Chile dropped 17 percent because of unfavorable prices, but higher yields harvested in 1947-48 may result in a crop about equal to that of last year.

Shortage of irrigation water in Peru is resulting in a drop in acreage and production. Argentine plantings were about the same as in the year before, and the harvest is expected to exceed 1947-48. Paraguay acreage about doubled and good yields per acre are expected. The acreage of Uruguay about equalled last year's which was substantially above average.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C. M. Purves, L. Thelma Willahan, and Afif I. Tannous.

WORLD GARBANZO PRODUCTION UP 40 PERCENT

Garbanzo (chickpea) production in 21 countries 1/ is indicated at about 120 million bags of 100 pounds in the 1948-49 season. This is 36 million bags or 42 percent more than was reported by these same countries in the prewar period 1935-39. However, most of this increase occurred in India where it is partially accounted for by the inclusion, in 1947 and 1948 of areas not previously reported.

India is by far the largest garbanzo producing country in the world with the 1948 crop reported at 96 million bags. Pakistan in 1948 was the second largest with 13 million bags reported. India and Pakistan together produced in 1948, 110 million bags or more than 90 percent of the 120 million bags reported for all 21 reporting countries.

Garbanzo beans (called gram in the Far East) is one of the more important food crops in India and Pakistan. It is an especially good food crop for the poorer agricultural areas and the acreage has been expanded considerably in recent years.

Mexico, with 2.6 million bags and Turkey, with 2.2 million bags reported in 1948 were the third and fourth largest producers of garbanzos. Production in both these countries has increased markedly since prewar. In Mexico the 1948 crop was two and a half times as large as in 1935-39. In Turkey the crop was almost double the prewar average.

Spain and Italy are the major producers of garbanzos in Europe. However, contrary to the trend in other important areas, the 1948 crop in Spain was preliminarily reported at only 50 percent of prewar. The decline was due largely to unfavorable weather which resulted in a yield per acre of only 190 pounds compared to prewar yields of 480 pounds. The 1948 acreage in Spain was well above prewar. For Europe, as a whole acreage was up in 5 of the 6 reporting countries. Only Rumania reported less acreage in 1948 than in prewar. Garbanzo production is normally unimportant in Rumania, however.

Production in the United States, while small, compared to other countries declined to about 2,000 bags in 1948 compared to 28,000 in 1947; 39,000 in 1946 and 17,000 in the prewar period 1935-39. Acreage dropped to less than 1,000 in 1948 from 3,000 to 7,000 in other recent years.

In South America only Argentina and Chile reported any appreciable production of garbonzos. In Chile production fluctuated below and above prewar in the last two years, but in 1947-48 it was about at the prewar level. Both acreage and production have declined in Argentina from the prewar level.

1/ Figures not available for important areas in the Far East, (Burma for example) and smaller areas in Africa.

GARBANZO BEANS: Acreage, yield and production in specified countries 1/, 1935-39 Average and annual 1946-1948 2/

Country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production (100 pound bags)			
	Average 1935-39 3/	1946	1947	1948 4/	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 4/	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 4/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
NORTH AMERICA												
Mexico	207	348	353	368	531	672	695	714	1,099	2,337	2,455	2,626
United States	3	7	5	5/	567	557	560	400	17	39	28	2
Total	210	355	358	368	532	669	694	714	1,116	2,376	2,483	2,628
EUROPE												
Bulgaria 6/	2	30	23	29	727	630	870	966	17	189	200	280
Greece	48	54	61	50	644	439	528	618	309	237	322	309
Italy	241	252	268	274	348	301	394	416	838	759	1,057	1,140
Portugal	85	127	120	145	354	307	333	324	301	390	400	470
Rumania 6/	7	2	1	2	634	112	247	663	44 7/	2	2	11
Spain	632	751	719	872	481	183	368	190	3,040	1,371	2,646	1,653
Total	1,015	1,216	1,192	1,372	448	242	388	282	4,549	2,948	4,627	3,863
ASIA												
Lebanon 6/	4	5	5	5	804	975	1,012	533	33	53	55	29
Palestine 6/	8	16	15	15	397	219	167	267	30	35	25	40
Syria	40	84	79	80	770	446	343	496	308	375	271	400
Turkey	174	231	175	225	705	646	911	980	1,227	1,493	1,594	2,205
India 8/	13,314	15,177	16,971	18,498	520	455	475	522	69,168	69,036	80,618	96,544
Pakistan	1,633	2,947	2,863	2,581	444	476	491	515	7,258	14,022	14,067	13,283
Total	15,173	18,460	20,108	21,404	514	461	481	526	78,024	85,014	96,630	112,501
SOUTH AMERICA												
Argentina	28	23	24	24	771	378	708	708	216	87	170	170
Chile	27	26	27	16	396	385	489	400	107	100	132	70
Total	55	49	51	40	587	380	592	600	323	187	302	240
AFRICA												
Algeria	35	42	28	44	463	238	307	416	162	100	86	183
Egypt	8	16	15	18	1,638	1,000	967	1,322	131	160	115	238
French Morocco	98	53	64	105	343	330	461	530	336	175	295	556
Spanish Morocco 6/	5	7	8	13	534	402	562	615	29	27	45	80
Tunisia	18	15	18	28	500	533	389	500	90	80	70	140
Total	164	133	133	208	456	475	459	575	748	542	611	1,197
Total specified countries	16,617	20,213	21,842	23,392	510	451	479	515	84,760	91,067	104,653	120,429

1/ Data not available for a few important areas in the Far East and smaller areas in Africa. 2/ Years shown indicate year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and of beginning harvest in the Southern Hemisphere. 3/ Less than 5-year average used in some instances. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Approximately 500 acres. 6/ Acreage figures rounded to nearest whole number but yields per acre calculated on the basis of unrounded estimates of acreage. 7/ 2,425 bags. 8/ Totals for 1947 and 1948 include areas not previously reported.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics, reports of United States Foreign Service officers and results of office research.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

JAPANESE COTTON CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Cotton consumption is again increasing in Japan after intermittent curtailments over the past 2 years. Consumption was reported at 58,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in November 1948, a substantial increase over the 49,000-bale estimate for August but still 2,000 bales short of the 60,000-bale monthly goal set for the industry for the last quarter of 1948. This is also below the level attained by the industry in the first half of 1947 when consumption averaged 64,000 bales per month.

Numerous factors caused this decline in cotton consumption in 1947-48 but shortages of raw materials, labor, and power were the major factors and more recently inability to find sufficient export markets for cotton textiles.

Japan has been forced to export a large share of cotton textile production to secure foreign exchange (largely dollars) to procure additional supplies of raw cotton. However, as the world-wide shortage of dollars became more acute, Japanese textile exports declined. Stocks of cotton textiles began to accumulate and the mills were forced to curtail production to conserve their limited supplies of raw cotton. The sale of cotton textiles for export on terms other than for dollars was permitted by the occupation authorities for the first time in April 1948 as a means of stimulating this export trade. In addition, various international financial arrangements were made, the most far-reaching was a general agreement with the sterling areas in August of 1948.

Political unrest in the Far East, Japan's traditional textile markets is still a major factor in limiting Japanese sales of cotton textiles. However, cotton textile exports during the past few months have shown some increase over the low point of last winter and spring. Unsold stocks of cotton cloth in Japan were reduced from 480 million yards in April 1948 to 310 million yards on November 1, 1948.

Shortage of raw cotton has been a major factor limiting cotton textile production in Japan, but if credits and trade arrangements are fully implemented there should be ample supplies of raw cotton in the near future at least. Total stocks of raw cotton fell to 143,000 bales on December 1, 1948. This is 57,000 bales under the 200,000-bale minimum considered necessary for normal operations. However, over 100,000 bales were scheduled for arrival in December which should have raised stocks to a safe operating level.

In the spring of 1948 two methods were established for financing Japanese imports of United States cotton. The sum of 60 million dollars was provided under the Japanese export-import revolving fund and the Eastland Act provided an additional 150 million dollars in revolving funds for the procurement of cotton.

Procurement of cotton under the Eastland Act has not yet begun. However, Boeki Cho (Japanese Board of Trade) has procured through October 31, 1948 a total of 165,000 bales of cotton under a Trust Fund derived largely from exports of silk and the 60 million-dollar export-import revolving fund.

The labor situation in the textile mills is improving as a result of improved food supplies in the urban textile areas. Although spinners have been pessimistic about meeting production schedules this winter because of seasonal electric power restriction, recent increases indicate this has not been too serious. The basic factor in determining cotton textile production in the future is expected to be the level of cotton textile exports. This will also govern the number of spindles installed because new spindles will not be installed if the result is to be only additional idle capacity. On October 31, 1948 SCAP reported 3.3 million spindles in place and operable but only 2.3 million operating.

(continued on Page 103)

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

BURMA'S RICE EXPORTS INCREASE IN 1948 1/

Rice exports from Burma during 1948 amounted to 2,725 million pounds in terms of milled compared with 1,779 million in the preceding year, and with the average of 6,504 million pounds during the prewar (1936-40) period. Despite the fact that rice deliveries have steadily increased since the end of the war, 1948 shipments were only 42 percent of the prewar average.

Exports during 1948 were substantially less than the 3,300 million pounds reported available for export at the beginning of the marketing season. This was due to political disturbances in the interior of the country which held up movement of rice to ports.

1/ A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

(Table on following page)

BURMA: Rice (milled) exports by country of destination,
average 1936-40, annual 1946-48

Country of destination	Average 1936-1940	1946	1947	1948 Amount	1948 Percent of total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent
ASIA:					
India	3,532	534	767	1,110	41
Ceylon	807	97	246	684	25
Malaya	508	267	298	443	16
Netherlands Indies	a/ 156	32	106	132	5
Borneo	b/	2	10	23	1
Hong Kong	b/	28	207	82	3
China	117	0	126	136	5
Korea	c/ 233	0	13	0	0
Philippines	b/	0	0	9	d/
Total Asia	5,353	960	1,773	2,619	96
EUROPE					
United Kingdom	128	0	6	76	3
Other Europe	497	0	0	5	d/
Total Europe	625	0	6	81	3
Mauritius	61	0	0	25	1
Other countries	465	0	0	0	0
Total	6,504	960	1,779	2,725	100

a/ 4-year average. b/ Not separately reported. c/ To Japan, Korea, and Formosa. d/ Less than one-half of 1 percent.

Compiled from consular reports.

WORLD RICE EXPORT ESTIMATE RAISED

World export supplies of milled rice for delivery in 1949 are now estimated at approximately 4,800,000 short tons compared with exports of about 4,000,000 tons in 1948, and with 8,700,000 tons during the 1936-40 average period. The forecast of export availabilities was revised upward (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 10, 1949) as a result of the official estimate of a larger crop in Burma than was indicated at harvest time. Total export supplies are now estimated at 12 percent above 1948 exports, and 55 percent of the prewar average.

TOBACCO

DOLLAR SHORTAGE RESTRICTING USE OF U.S. TOBACCO IN SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil's largest tobacco manufacturer recently announced that it has temporarily discontinued the manufacture of its Virginia-type brand of cigarettes, according to a report received from the American Consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

This brand of cigarettes was manufactured principally from Burley and flue-cured tobacco, most of which was imported from the United States, and the manufacturer was forced to withdraw it from the market, because of Brazilian import restrictions and the increasing difficulty of procuring dollar exchange for the purchase of United States tobacco.

This announcement points up a trend now well under way throughout much of South America, that is, the withdrawal from the market of Virginia-type cigarettes manufactured locally from tobacco imported from the United States because of dollar exchange difficulties. This situation reverses a trend since the war of increasing imports of United States tobacco.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: United States Exports to South America of specified types

(1,000 pounds)

Type	Average 1935-39	1945	1946	1947	1948
Flue-cured	1,461	2,527	2,729	4,424	1/ 3,434
Burley	216	695	690	1,541	1/ 894

1/ First 11 months.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

CANADIAN EGG EXPORTS TO U.S. NOT EXPECTED TO BE LARGE

Canadian Government officials foresee no large-scale exports of eggs to the United States during the first half of 1949.

They have indicated, following inquiry by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that from February through May all available Canadian eggs, above domestic requirements, will be required to meet the 1949 British contract. The contract calls for 19.5 million dozen storage eggs, 3,000 tons of dried eggs and 4,000 tons of frozen eggs. Nearly all available Grade A large and medium eggs for the next 4 months may be required to fill the storage egg commitment. The 1949 contract announced in December for the equivalent of 46 million dozen covers the 11 months, February 1 to December 31.

The 1948 British-Canadian egg agreement expires on January 31, 1949. Under that agreement, exports equivalent to 80 million dozen were specified, but this was subsequently reduced to 74 million. Actually, approximately 70 million dozen will have moved by January 31. The expiring contract provided for 24 million dozen fresh eggs and deliveries are continuing to the end of January.

As the United Kingdom prefers large eggs, because of rationing problems, some quantities of pullet eggs have been available for export from Canada to other markets. In addition to shipments to Alaska, Newfoundland, and the British West Indies, some sales have been made to the United States. Canadian egg exports to the United States were 437 cases in November, 4,768 cases in December, and an estimated 5,000 cases in January, largely pullet eggs.

Notwithstanding a higher current rate-of-lay, egg production in Canada during the first half of 1949 is expected to be somewhat lower than that for the corresponding period in 1948. Production for the month of December was 17 percent below that for December 1947. There was, however, a 23 percent reduction from a year previous in the average number of hens during December, but this partially was offset by an increase in the rate-of-lay of 7 percent.

It is uncertain whether the reduction in Canadian production in 1949 from 1948 will reach 24 million dozen, which would be the difference between the British shipments in 1948 and the expected shipments in 1949. It is noteworthy that this 24 million dozen corresponds to the quantity of fresh eggs which Canada has been shipping in the fall and early winter. With a reduction in production, all available eggs in Canada for the period February through May apparently will be required to meet commitments to the British for storage, dried and frozen eggs which remain the same as a year ago. The extent of the surplus next fall, for which no commitment has been made, will depend quite largely upon the 1949 spring hatch. With the present uncertainty of feed prices and the availability of high protein feeds, it is not possible to assess the trend in production very accurately that far ahead.

An additional factor that will tend to limit the Canadian export surplus of eggs in the months ahead is the prospect for stronger domestic demand for eggs in Canada resulting from higher meat prices. The Canadian Government in August, 1948, removed the export embargo on sheep and lambs, slaughter and feeder cattle, and on dressed beef. Prices advanced materially toward the United States level and the heavy export marketings have materially cut into cattle inventories in Canada.

FATS AND OILS

THE AUSTRALIAN LARD AND TALLOW SITUATION 1/

Exports of tallow from Australia have been limited by the shortage of supplies. However, shipments of 449 tons of edible beef tallow in 1947-48 were considerably greater than the 348 and 35 tons in 1946-47 and 1945-46, respectively. Of the 1947-48 exports, 432 tons were consigned to the United Kingdom and the remainder to New Guinea and India. Exports of edible mutton tallow in 1947-48 amounted to 624 tons as compared with 408 tons in 1946-47 and 224 in 1945-46. Of the 1947-48 exports, 292 went to India, 179 to the United Kingdom and 149 tons to Canada.

Exports of inedible beef tallow from Australia declined from 1,735 tons in 1945-46 to 112 in 1946-47 and 175 tons in 1947-48. Of the 1947-48 exports, 154 tons went to the United Kingdom and 21 tons to Canada. Exports of inedible mutton tallow also have declined since 1945-46, being only 3,663 tons in 1947-48 as compared with 5,708 tons in 1945-46. Of the 1947-48 shipments, 3,009 tons went to India, 345 tons to Canada and 249 tons to the United Kingdom.

Prior to 1945-46 the official statistics of exports were grouped under two headings only, "unrefined tallow" and "lard and refined animal fats." Beginning with the year 1945-46 exports of tallow and lard from Australia were compiled according to a revised statistical classification. The quantities of each class of tallow, lard, and other animal fats exported in the years 1945-46 to 1947-48 inclusive are shown below, while the previous years are shown in the following table.

AUSTRALIA: Exports of animal fats, 1947-48 with comparisons

	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Edible -			
Lard	340	92	68
Dripping	391	432	1,074
Beef tallow, including Premier Jus	35	348	449
Mutton tallow	224	408	624
Animal (except marine) fats, n.e.i.	1,081	999	
Inedible -			
Beef tallow	1,735	112	175
Other tallow, including mutton tallow	5,708	3,276	3,663

American Consultate General, Sydney, Australia.

1/ Based in part upon a report by Alice M. Day, Reporting Clerk, American Consulate General, at Sydney.

AUSTRALIA: Exports of animal fats 1944-45
with comparisons

Years	Unrefined Tallow	Lard and Refined Animal Fats
	Short tons	Short tons
1938-39........	31,500	2,745
1939-40........	45,070	7,159
1940-41........	31,191	7,827
1941-42........	37,466	3,906
1942-43........	5,553	2,571
1943-44........	33,078	1,376
1944-45........	23,609	2,717

American Consulate General, Sydney, Australia.

Because of the decline in the hog raising industry in Australia in recent years, supplies of lard have been short and exports have been on a very small scale. Shipments in 1947-48 amounted to 68 tons, compared with 92 tons in 1946-47 and 340 tons in 1945-46. Of the shipments of 68 tons in the year ended June 30, 1948, 21 tons were consigned to Hong Kong, 15 tons to Iran, 8 tons to New Hebrides, 5 tons to the United Kingdom and 4 tons to New Caledonia.

Since 1946 the International Emergency Food Committee has recommended the allocation of fat and oil supplies. All the lard and tallow which Australia can supply has been bought by the British Ministry of Food, with the exception of a small amount sent to Australian territories and a certain quantity of white mutton tallow allowed to be exported to India for textile purposes. Supplies bought by the British Ministry of Food may be shipped to other countries at its direction.

In prewar years imports of tallow and lard into Australia were very small. During war and post-war years importations of all classes of these products from non-sterling countries have been either prohibited or under administrative control.

In prewar and early war years most of the tallow imported into Australia came from New Zealand. Since 1942-42 imports of tallow and lard into Australia have been exceedingly small. Domestic production of tallow and lard is well protected from overseas competition, importations being subject to duties.

Tallow production shows a steady decline from an estimated 83,266 short tons for the fiscal year 1943-44 to a low of 51,478 tons in 1946-47. Quantities of tallow produced in factories as well as in other establishments such as butcheries, as well as on farms, has been estimated for all of Australia as follows:

AUSTRALIA: Tallow production and consumption of tallow in soap and candle factories, 1946-47 with comparisons

Year	Total farm & commercial estimated production	Commercial production			Consumption in soap and candle factories
		Raw tallow	Refined tallow	Total	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
1938-39	n.a.	32,641	11,112	43,753	29,989
1939-40	n.a.	45,317	10,206	55,523	33,769
1940-41	n.a.	43,167	5,142	48,309	35,503
1941-42	n.a.	54,822	5,720	60,542	46,785
1942-43	n.a.	60,029	5,935	65,964	58,991
1943-44	83,266	49,839	20,880	70,719	47,938
1944-45	74,037	41,852	16,840	58,692	48,110
1945-46	55,547	32,577	13,042	45,619	46,707
1946-47	51,478	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	43,061

American Consulate General, Sydney, Australia.

Commercial tallow or quantities of tallow extracted in factories, mainly boiling down, tallow refining and bone milling establishments, as given above lists "raw tallow" as inedible tallow that has not been subjected to any process or treatment other than the rendering of it, and "refined tallow" which has any substance removed that would make it unsuitable for use in the manufacture of such products as soap.

Lard production in Australia has remained fairly steady for the last 3 years as will be seen in the following table of estimated total farm and factory production of lard:

AUSTRALIA: Lard production, 1947-48 with comparisons

	Total farm and factory estimated production	Factory 1/ extraction of lard
	Short tons	Short tons
1943-44	5,546	2,994
1944-45	5,766	4,594
1945-46	4,897	3,687
1946-47	4,665	n.a.
1947-48	4,640	n.a.

1/ Mainly bacon-curing establishments.
American Consulate General, Sydney, Australia.

A large part of the tallow produced in Australia is consumed in soap and candle factories. The table on tallow production and consumption shows the quantity of tallow used in such factories.

Part of the low grade raw tallow produced in Australia is split into its various components, such as stearine, stearic acid, fatty acids, and oleic acid and part of it used in the production of laundry soaps, edible fats, etc. Much of the edible tallow, mainly beef, is used in margarine factories. However, in Australia table margarines must be manufactured almost entirely from vegetable oils and the amount which may be produced for local consumption in any one year is limited. If a higher animal fat content were permitted more beef fat would be consumed. No limitation is placed on the manufacture of cooking or pastry margarine which consists chiefly of beef and some mutton fat.

Usually the quantity of lard produced in Australia has been sufficient to meet local demand and at times provide a small surplus for export. However, in recent years there has been a decline in hog raising and consequently in the production of pork, with the result that lard has been short on the domestic market and very little has been available for export. Most of the lard is used as an edible fat for cooking, however, a certain quantity is consumed in biscuit factories, bakeries, and in the production of pharmaceutical preparations and toilet soaps.

Since early in the war, prices for lard and tallow sold in Australia for domestic consumption have been controlled by the Commonwealth Government. Maximum prices were fixed by the Commonwealth Price Commissioner until September 20, 1948, when the Commonwealth Government relinquished control of prices. Since then the price-fixing authorities of the State Governments have continued the control of prices.

Prices of tallow for domestic use varied somewhat during the war years. From May 9, 1947 maximum prices for sales of various classes of tallow in the large buying centers have varied from $77.90 per short ton to $106.75 per ton depending on the type of container for inedible tallow and from $106.75 per ton to $129.82 per ton for edible tallow.

Export prices for lard and tallow have been higher than domestic prices and have shown a considerable increase in recent years. At present, the British Ministry of Food is paying approximately $317.36 per ton for Australian tallow and $450.07 per ton for edible lard. The average export price of Australian tallow for 1945-46 was $123.34 per ton and for 1944-45, $91.60 per ton. From the foregoing it will be seen that prices received for Australian tallow exported is much higher than the prices fixed for tallow sold in Australia for domestic consumption. Consequently, in each year since October 1, 1944, a Commonwealth Tallow Prices Equalization Pool has been in operation. In brief, exporters of tallow and products containing tallow or derived from tallow to pay into a "Pool" the approximate difference between Australian ceiling prices and world parity prices on the tallow and tallow content of products. The object of the pools is to distribute among manufacturers of tallow throughout Australia the premiums received by exporters and/or shippers. The pools are administered by a voluntary Tallow Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of manufacturers and shippers of tallow.

CEYLON RESTRICTS EXPORTS OF COPRA AND COCONUT OIL

The Ceylon Government has restricted free market sales of copra and coconut oil. This decision is in anticipation of reduced supplies of coconuts in 1949, resulting from drought during May-July 1948. A Government official stated that this action was necessary in order that sufficient quantities of copra and coconut oil may be available to meet Ceylon's obligation of 40,000 tons (in terms of oil) to the United Kingdom in 1949. Ceylon must also be in a position to supply 8,000 tons of copra or coconut oil to Pakistan, if requested, in 1949.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

WORLD CITRUS FRUIT REPORT DEFERRED

The World Summary of 1948-49 production of citrus fruit production scheduled for publication in this issue of Foreign Crops and Markets will be published instead in the February 21 issue. The report is being deferred 2 weeks in order to include United States estimates of production which are to be published on February 10. It is expected that the February 10 estimate for the United States will reflect the extent of the damage to citrus from the recent adverse weather in California.

ARGENTINA'S GRAPE CROP SMALLER

Production of table grapes in Argentina for the 1948-49 season will probably be about 221,000 tons, or 10 percent below the 1947-48 crop of 244,000 tons and the 5-year (1940-41) average of 245,000 tons.

Wine grape production may drop to 1,377,000 tons, 15 to 20 percent below the crop of 1,669,000 for the previous season, but 11 percent above the 5-year average of 1,245,000 tons. Growing conditions, except for frost and hail damage, have been very favorable. Ample supplies of water for irrigation have been available. Severe damage from frost and hail occurred in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan. In San Juan early prospects were for a much larger crop than last year but hail in December and early January reduced the size of the crop to that of last season. In Mendoza over-all damage is estimated at around 20 percent but in some areas damage is estimated at around 100 percent. These 2 provinces of Mendoza and San Juan account for around 95 percent of Argentina's grape crop.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

(Continued from Page 94)

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	2-3	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	54.00	45.06
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	"	"	"	52.00	43.39
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	90.80	75.76
Karnak, F.G.F.	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	620.00	23.86
Broach, Fine	"	"	"	650.00	25.01
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine	2-2	82.28 lbs.	"	85.00	31.17
289F Sind, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	93.00	34.10
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	100.50	36.85
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B		2204.6 lbs.	Peso		
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	2-1	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not	quoted)
Pima, Type 1	"	"		(not	quoted)
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4	2-3	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	210.00	34.55
Sertao, Type 5	"		"	225.00	37.02
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"			218.00	35.87
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	182.00	26.03
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	32.65

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

BRAZIL'S COTTON EXPORTS BELOW LAST YEAR

Exports of cotton from Brazil during August-December 1948 totaled 380,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) compared with 447,000 bales during a similar period in 1947.

Most of the decrease is attributed to sharp drops in exports to Belgium, Netherlands and Canada partly offset by increases in exports to France and Spain. Diminishing stocks of cotton in Brazil and a resulting rise in prices of cotton for export above those for comparable grades of American since the middle of July are underlying factors contributing to a decline in Brazil's cotton exports. The export total of 1,036,000 bales for 1947-48 is about equal to the 5-year prewar average but is 30 to 35 percent less than the totals for 1945-46 and 1946-47.

Drought in December in the State of Sao Paulo was broken by heavy rains early in January but no serious damage to the cotton crop was reported. The second official estimate placed the 1948-49 crop in that State at 920,000 bales from 2,320,000 acres compared with 707,000 bales from 2,098,000 acres for the previous year. Adding 400,000 bales for North Brazil and 80,000 for other states in South Brazil, a preliminary 1948-49 estimate of 1,400,000 bales for all Brazil is calculated. This represents an increase of 20 percent over the estimate of 1,170,000 bales for 1947-48.

Stocks held by the Federal Government on December 31, 1948 amounted to only 23,000 bales, a reduction of 31,000 from the total a month earlier.